

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1805 - SB 1471**

March 19, 2011

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires all local education agencies (LEA) to start school no earlier than the fourth Monday in August, unless the LEA is on a year-round school schedule or the Department of Education grants a waiver. Authorizes LEAs that have averaged 10 days of canceled school during the past five years due to inclement weather to request a waiver to begin school earlier. If a waiver is granted, the start date shall be five days earlier than the fourth Monday in August plus an additional five days. Requires the DOE to ensure that school choice options will be available to students in LEAs that are granted a waiver no later than fourteen days before the first day of school. Waiver requests shall be denied if the LEA cannot prove that adequate yearly progress (AYP) reports will be available for school choice options. Requires the DOE to create and publish a timeline to ensure that federal deadlines and notification requirements are met for school choice options. Schools operating on year-round basis shall request a waiver and the DOE shall ensure that year-round schools will not be required to offer school choice programs in the year in which the waiver is requested. Waivers for schools on year-round schedules shall be in effect for one year. If a school on a year-round schedule fails to meet AYP requirements in the year prior to the waiver request, the waiver will be denied. Requires schools to hold open houses no earlier than seven days after students have received school notice assignments. Students shall not be prevented from participating in clubs, teams, or organizations due to their exercise of school choice options or penalized for not attending summer practices or training if the students were eligible for school choice because of a school's failure to meet AYP requirements.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

**Assumptions:**

- LEAs will continue to provide 180 days of instruction. Any net decrease in local expenditures for heating or cooling facilities will be not significant.
- The DOE will grant start date waivers, process waiver requests, and create a timeline within existing resources without any additional personnel or a reduction in other budgetary items.
- The DOE and LEAs will continue to meet all federal reporting and notification requirements. No increase in state or local expenditures to meet federal deadlines.
- Mandating when open houses are held and preventing students from being penalized for exercising school choice options will have no fiscal impact on state or local government.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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